

Dear Everybody,

This is to be the beginning of a more informative letter explaining and describing various aspects of life in Israel with some of my impressions of it. Much of what I see will not be experienced first hand in many ways, because living at the Institute offers a rather sheltered life for the Americans. Most of the people one is in contact with are American; at the school English is almost the only language spoken except with the cooks, and maintenance people who though they probably know Hebrew, are "Arab" and speak Arabic. Now and then a touch of Israel filters into the Institute. For instance, though the food is almost always American, now and then we will have some Arabic dishes. And we will also have various side dishes ~~that~~ frequently which ~~was~~ ^{were} not before familiar to our taste buds, such as squash and eggplant. Since I have begun a description of food, I

might as well continue on to describe various foods that we eat that would also be available to the native. Of meats there is beef, lamb, chicken, and surprisingly enough, pork. I thought this to be rather unusual for both the religious Arab and Jew would probably find ~~this~~ ^{PORK} to be rather unclean. ~~But~~ But I have heard that though the Arab cooks would never eat pork, they have no negative feeling about preparing it. Of vegetables I can remember having corn on the cob, occasionally, a great deal of ~~squash~~ squash eggplant, beets, green beans, onions, peas, and salads which are almost always made up of tomatoes, cucumbers, and lettuce. Oh yes, now and again we will have salad with cabbage, carrots, and raisins. Of meats could also be added pre-processed fish squares. Then continuing there is milk, cheese, cream, chicken eggs; and of the carbohydrates, various shapes of white bread which is on the whole much better tasting than our average white bread, rice, and white potatoes. Then there are the fringe food stuffs that can be bought at the Oasis which I try to keep away from such as Coke; milk and bitter sweet chocolate; various fruit filled

chocolate, bagged, shelled, and salted peanuts; bubble gum and regular gum; orange, lemon, and grapefruit drinks. As you can see, it is almost like a little America here. I will probably add from time to time, other foods to the list that I may have forgotten about such as oranges, limes, apples, and skinny little bananas.

I'm not at all sure yet what else may be included in my description of Israel since ~~it~~ ^{the thought} is a newly planted seed in my brain. One idea I have is to go through the old city one day with paper and pen and list all the foods that can be seen. That should ~~prove~~ prove rather informative. I might also list all the occupations in the Old city. I choose the Old city because it comes nearer to what life was like here a while ago for most people. The new city is much like an American city with its shops, Y.M.C.A., offices, apartments and the like. This letter then will take a while before I'm ready to send it. It might ramble on for a while but I think it will be rather interesting.